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PLEADS GUILTY TO SMUGGLING 10,000 MACHINE GUNS
NEW YORK

A man thought to be an accomplice of former CIA agent Frank Terpil has pleaded guilty to selling 10,000 machine guns and 10 million rounds of ammunition to undercover agents, prosecutors said Thursday.

George G. Korkola, 43, thought the agents were Central American terrorists, according to the Manhattan District Attorney's office.

Korkola, of Nutley, N.J., admitted last Friday the illegal sale of the weapons, possession of a silencer, attempted possession of a liquid explosive, and possession of an automatic pistol as part of a plea bargaining deal.

He was being held in \$500,000 bail after being arrested in Spain and extradited to New York in March 1983.

State Supreme Court Justice Thomas Galligan told Korkala that when he sentences him June 28 he will give him at least five to 15 years in prison but no more than six and two-thirds to 20 years.

Galligan could have sentenced Korkala to 15 to 30 years.

Assistant District Attorney John Fried said fugitive defendant Frank Terpil, 45, a former CIA agent from MacLean, Va., was actually the "prime mover" in the gun-running conspiracy and that the sentence Galligan promised Korkala was adequate.

Korkala and Terpil had been charged with the sale of 10,000 MK2 and MK3 machine guns stored in a English warehouse, and other weapons, to two detectives posing as Latin American revolutionaries.

Detectives went to England to inspect the weapons, and arrangements were made to get documents needed to move the guns. They gave Korkala and Terpil a \$56,000 down payment a New York hotel on Dec. 22, 1979, and arrested them.

Following their arrests, Korkala and Terpil were freed on \$100,000 bail each. Both fled the country just before their trial was to begin in 1981 and both were tried and convicted in absentia for illegal gun sales.

Korkala was arrested Feb. 25, 1982, at a trade fair in Madrid where he had a booth and was trying to sell guns and other weapons. Terpil is still at large, reportedly in the North African country of Libya.

Korkala still faces federal charges that he and Terpil illegally sold arms and explosives to former Ugandan dictator Idi Amin.